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2014/3/16

Free! unafficial fan baak

Haruka*Rin

Kabocha Zenzai

It was the finals of the 100-meter freestyle race at the Prefectural Tournament of our third year...

...when for the very first time...

...I saw Nanase Haruka cry.

NOW YOU KNOW THAT JUST WON'T DO AT ALL!
NO NEED, I CAN HAVE WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT AROUND
OH MY, RIN! YOU REALLY OUGHT TO LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE!
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DINNER FOR YOU TO JOIN!
THOUGHT I'D GO AND VISIT THE GRAVESITE BEFORE THE MEET
OH, I SEE!
Okay, you can have half of mine, then
MOM! GIVE ONIICHAN MY HAMBURG STEAK!
SHE'S RIGHT, ONIICHAN! YOU'RE AN ATHLETE IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING REGIONAL TOURNAMENT!
THERE'LL BE COLLEGE SCOUTS THERE TOO, RIGHT??
EEH??
NOT TODAY
THEN CAN I GO WITH YOU?
DID YOU ALREADY GO VISIT DAD?
I'M GOING AFTER THIS

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THERE ARE SOME THINGS GUYS CAN ONLY DISCUSS WITHOUT ANY GIRLS AROUND
WITHOUT... ANY
HEY... ONIICHAN?
WAS HE CRYING? AT THE PREFECTURAL MEET?
REI-KUN
RIN-SAN!

TH...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I PUT FORTH MY EVERYTHING TODAY IN THAT RACE WITH YOU.
...HELPED ME SWIM MY BEST BUTTERFLY TODAY
THE THEORY THAT I LEARNED WITH YOU...

AND IT WAS...
...SO MUCH FUN...!
.....
MAYBE YOU GOT A LITTLE CHOKED UP YOURSELF?
LIKE HELL I WAS CRYING!
STILL... REI-KUN DIDN'T ADVANCE TO THE REGIONALS MEET, SO THAT RACE WAS HIS LAST TO SWIM WITH YOU, HUH—
I'm not crying!
Ugh, geez, don't cry!
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE WE WON'T BE FACING OFF IN THE RELAY, THE IDIOT...
HEHE!
actually got a little teary-eyed

MAYBE THEN I COULD REALLY HAVE BEEN THEIR FRIEND...
I KIND OF WISH I WERE A BOY, TOO.
THAT SOUNDS SO NICE...
GOU, AFTER THE MEET,
WANNA HIT THE POOL?
GOU?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LEARN TO SWIM PROPERLY, RIGHT?

The "last"...

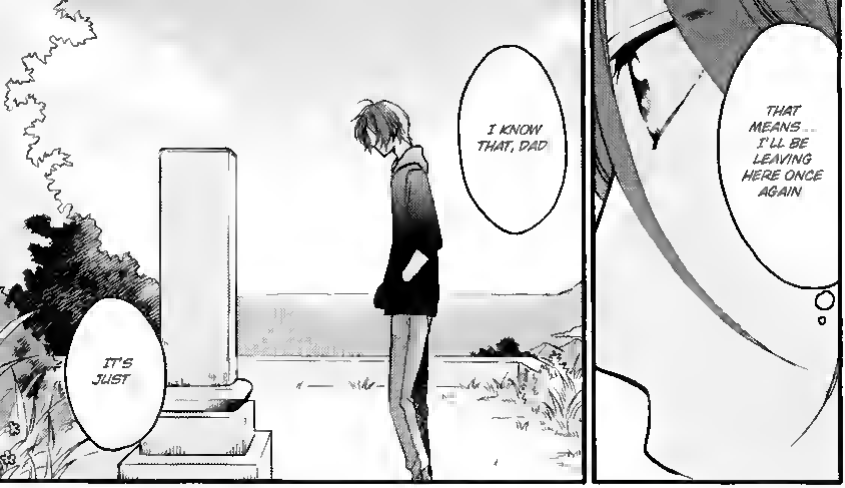
YEAH!

I'LL SHOW MY STUFF AT THE MEET

AND THEN START MY JOURNEY TO THE OLYMPICS

It's coming for us...

...whether we like it or not.



Those three months in elementary school...

And the past year since that summer...

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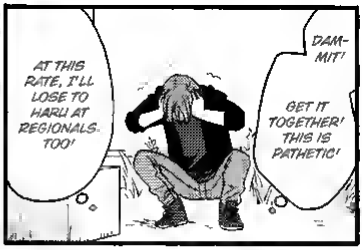

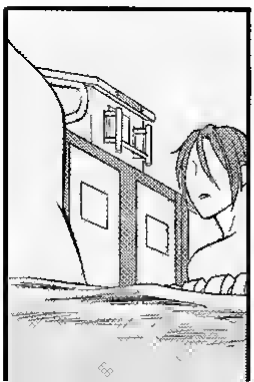

Was it because he gave his all...?

Because he lost to his rival? Because he won?

Because it was our last race?

What was it that made Nanase Haruka of all people cry...?

worried
I CAME HERE WITHOUT REALLY THINKING THIS THROUGH, AND WHAT IF I JUST IMAGINED IT...?
THOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST ASK HIM DIRECTLY. I KNOW I WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE ASKING ME THAT KIND OF THING.
worried
RATTLE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOW DID--
MAKOTO CALLED.
HE SAID YOU WERE HANGING AROUND MY ENTRYWAY.
!?
GLARE
Well you wouldn't ring the doorbell!
URK
W--WELL THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO CHECK OUT, AS YOUR RIVAL, OF COURSE!
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE EACH OTHER UNTIL THE TOURNAMENT ENDED, SINCE WE'RE RIVALS
really happy

HE SEEMS IN KIND OF A GOOD MOOD?
DID YOU NOT HAVE PRACTICE TODAY?
S
SURE
OH? THEN DID YOU WANT TO COME INSIDE?
I'M GONNA GET MY REVENGE FOR THAT LOSS AT PREFECTURALS, SO YOU'D BETTER BE ON YOUR GAME
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
WRAPPED IT UP THIS MORNING
I'M IN GOOD CONDITION, Y'KNOW
EVERYONE'S FIRED UP.
IT'S THE LAST TOURNAMENT FOR US THIRD-YEARS, AFTER ALL
WE'RE DOING FINE

?
FORGET IT, I'M COMING IN.
SO I SEE...
...EVEN YOU THINK ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING, HUH...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
UH...
NAGISA WANTED ONE AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM, SO I'M MAKING ONES FOR EVERYONE.
...WOW, I GUESS I HAVE INTERRUPTED THEN, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
check it out
IWATOBI-CHAN STRAP, CHEERLEADER VERSION.
YOU'RE MAKING THAT CRAP AGAIN...?

RIN, DON'T STAY OVER THERE, COME SIT HERE...
What is WITH HIM??
THIS GUY SAYS SHIT LIKE THIS A LOT LATELY AND IT IS REALLY...
GATHUNK
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
YOU'RE NOT INTERRUPTING
THIS ONE IS YOURS.
I'M GLAD I GOT TO GIVE IT TO YOU BEFORE THE MEET...
THANKS... THOUGH I'M LEAVING AGAIN SOON
HUH?
YOU'RE GIVING A GOOD-LUCK CHARM TO A SWIMMER ON A RIVAL TEAM... ARE YOU EVEN PLANNING ON TRYING TO WIN...?
OH, SO THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO SEE ME!!
EH?!
WAI...

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YOU'RE NOT MY ENEMY.
AND YOU'LL BE AIMING FOR THE OLYMPICS AFTER THIS, RIGHT?
OR—IS THIS YOUR WAY OF SAYING THAT SINCE YOU BEAT ME AT THE PREFECTURAL MEET, YOU'RE SATISFIED NOW—?!
YEAH— I AM.
BUT—I'M NOT FINISHED COMPETING AGAINST YOU! JUST YET!
SHOCK
RIN—?
I--NO, SORRY, JUST—

WHY DO I ALWAYS GET LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF HARU...?
DAMMIT... WHAT AM I SNAPPING AT HIM FOR...?
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BE-FORE I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD
R!--
SORRY
I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING.
I'VE...GOT SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF, SO I'M GONNA LEAVE.
THANKS FOR THIS I'LL GLADLY--
I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT I'D BE FINE IF I COULD JUST MAKE SURE...

----TAKE
DON'T RUN AWAY
TALK TO ME.
DID I MAKE YOU ANGRY...?
CLATTER
CRASH
!?
I...DON'T LIKE WATCHING YOU LEAVE
SO...
Y-YOU DIDN'T, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, IT'S...
THEN WHAT IS IT?
SPIT IT OUT...

SORRY, BUT...I'M GOING TO CHASE YOU WHENEVER YOU RUN AWAY NOW...
I'VE MADE MY DECISION
AND THEN MAKE YOU SPEAK!
I've learned that nothing good comes of leaving you to your own devices, after all.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?! THAT'S SCARY!
HEH...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL.
.....

BUT EVER SINCE ..
...I SAW YOU CRY THE OTHER DAY...
I DON'T...
...REALLY GET IT MYSELF
IT'S NOT LIKE ME OR REI CRYING
I MEAN,
YOU CRYING IS A HUGE THING, RIGHT?
SEEING THAT...
IT JUST MADE IT FEEL LIKE...
...THAT REALLY WAS THE LAST TIME... I'D EVER BE ABLE TO SWIM WITH YOU...

AND...
I KNOW THAT I'LL KEEP ON SWIMMING AFTER ALL THIS...
BUT YOU GUYS... HARU, YOU WON'T
AND THAT'S FINE
IT'S JUST..
DAMMIT... WHY WAS IT SO EASY TO SAY THIS TO REI, AND YET WITH HARU...
One year and three months...is far too short a time to give me the confidence to say, "We'll definitely swim again some day."
If you take away swimming from our relationship...then what will we have left?

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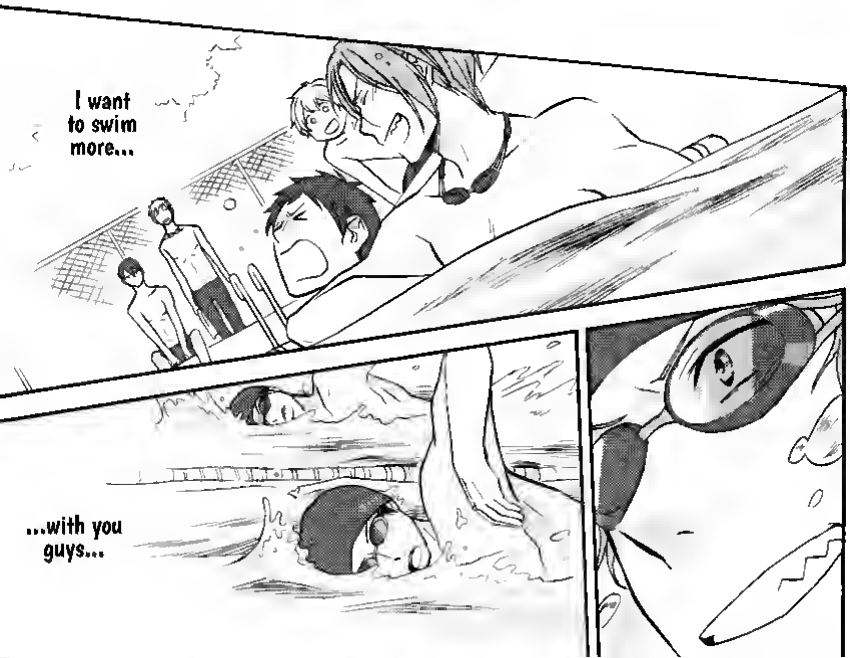
DAMMIT,
IF YOU HAD JUST...
IF YOU HAD JUST ACTED LIKE *NORMAL*, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE DEALING WITH EMOTIONS LIKE THIS...!
I COULD'VE KEPT FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE, NEVER LOOKING BACK AGAIN!
BUT EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT HOW THIS IS THE END...

It just overflows.



...with Haruka...!
WH-WH-WHAT THE HELL--?!
SALTY..
POP
YOU--WHAT DID YOU JUST-- AND 'SALTY'?!
HAP...?!
IT WAS ON IN-STINCT.
FWUMP
H--HEY!
YOU MADE ME REALLY HAPPY...

...IT MADE ME SO HAPPY.
HEARING THOSE WORDS FROM YOUR OWN LIPS...
REALIZING... THAT IT WASN'T JUST ME FEELING THAT WAY...
EVEN IF, IF, OUR FUTURE PATHS WERE DIFFERENT AND WE WOUND UP SEPARATED, WE WOULD BE FINE.
RIN--DON'T WORRY.
H--HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE...?
I DON'T...
...INTEND ON GIVING UP THE BOND I HAVE WITH YOU.

AND THE SAME GOES FOR MY BONDS WITH MAKOTO AND THE OTHERS TOO.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK, LIKE NOW.

Can't believe I'm getting cheered up by YOU
DAMMIT...
=sniffle=

HUH?
...ALSO, I DON'T RECALL CRYING AT THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT.
You'd better not...

DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
YOU LIAR, YOU WERE TOTALLY CRYING!
MAYBE YOU MISTOOK THE WATER FROM THE POOL FOR TEARS...?
LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY THAT!
HARU?
I'm coming in, okay?
I BROUGHT SOME PEARS TO SHARE!
IF RIN'S STILL HERE, WE CAN EAT TOGETHER!
Rin that hurts
NO! IT'S NOTHING!
..HEY, ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING AGAIN?
AH! I FIGURED YOU'D BE HERE!
But the pears...?
EEH?!
I TOLD YOU WE WEREN'T GONNA HANG OUT MORE THAN NECESSARY UNTIL THE MEET WAS OVER!
STAND
ALL RIGHT, I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME TO DO, SO I'M LEAVING!

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SORRY, HARU...
WAS MY TIMING BAD...?
NO, YOU'RE FINE.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE "RIVALS UNTIL THE TOURNAMENT".
RIN.
DON'T LOSE.
WE STILL HAVE TO FACE EACH OTHER AT NATIONALS, RIGHT?

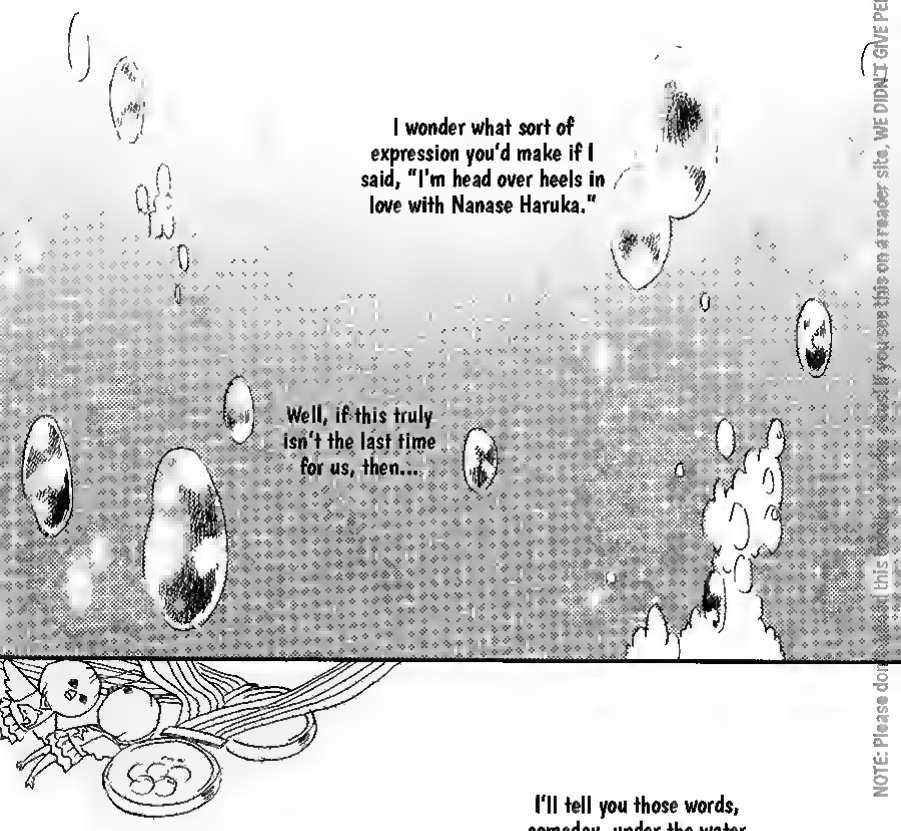
TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE!
YOU IDIOT!
I NEVER SAID I INTENDED TO QUIT SWIMMING AFTER GRADUATION...
"BEFORE"?
...HE DEFINITELY FORGOT WHAT I SAID BEFORE...

NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER NOT CARED ABOUT COMPETING AGAINST YOU
SO YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED.
RIN.
...WAIT A MINUTE.
I NEVER TOLD HIM WHERE OR WHEN I SAW HIM CRYING...!
I KNEW IT! HE **WAS** LYING!

SOME-ONE'S GOING ALL OUT, HUH!
THOSE BEATEN UP SNEAKERS.
GUESS HE REALLY IS TRAINING ON LAND SOME TOO!
WELL, WHAT-EVER HE'S AL-WAYS BEEN STUB-BORN
"I WAS HAPPY."
I wonder if he'd be happy...if I told him...
I'VE NEVER THANKED HIM OR TOLD HIM HOW MUCH HE MEANS TO ME...
THAT RE-MINDS ME..

IF I TOLD HIM HOW I'VE BEEN DRAWN TO HIS SWIMMING EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OR HOW MANY TIMES HE S SAVED ME NOW
OR HOW DESPITE HOW SOME-TIMES IT'S PAINFUL OR HARD...
...SWIMMING WITH HIM IS EVEN MORE EXHILARATING AND FUN THAN ANYTHING...
AND ALSO...

...that I love him.


I wonder what sort of expression you'd make if I said, "I'm head over heels in love with Nanase Haruka."
Well, if this truly isn't the last time for us, then....
I'll tell you those words, someday, under the water that you love so much.

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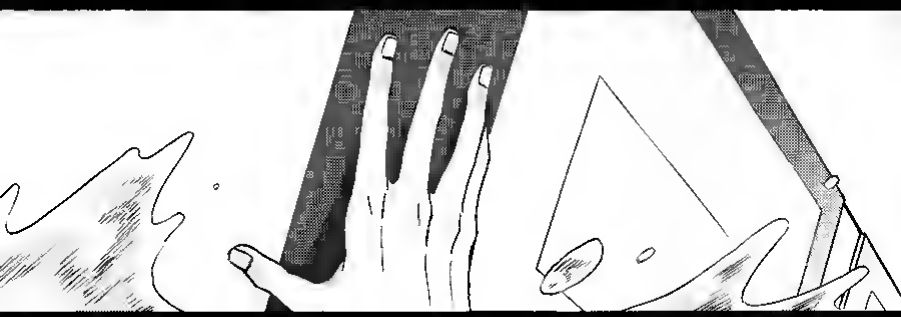
end.

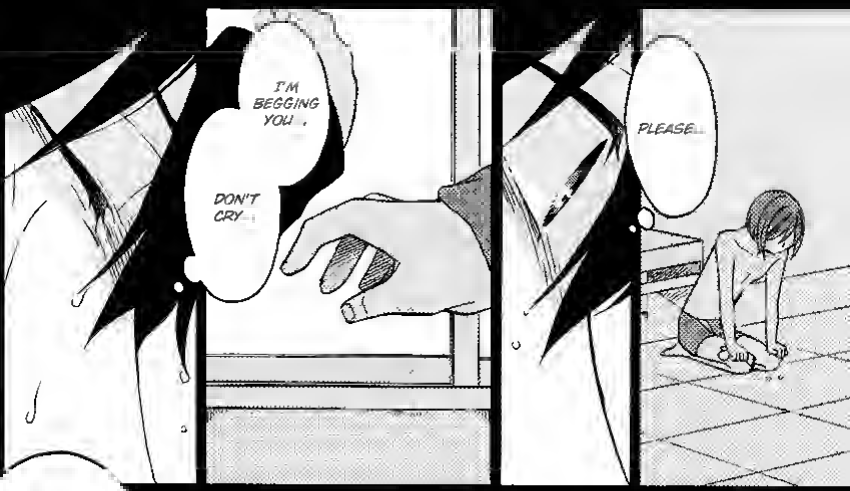
Happy memories
help us to forget
all the sad ones.

And that's why until, that moment,
I'd completely forgotten.



...and such a fool.

Being reminded of what might happen if we raced...



ARGH!

...only after I'd beaten you...

In other words, I let my guard down. Perilously.

I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, *HARU!*

...I was so happy.

We were more than fine, now.

I didn't have to be afraid anymore.

And it was in that moment that I first glimpsed a far-off future...where Rin and I were still swimming together.

...ALL RIGHT.

But...

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I'LL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU LEAD!

I have absolutely no intention
of ever telling you...

...that that was the reason I cried.